

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

November 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Small deviations from seasonal trends tell stories of their own

Between September and October, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) fell for the United States (5.4 percent to 5.3 percent), fell for Wisconsin (4.3 percent to 4.1 percent) and fell for the 6-county South Central region (from 2.8 percent to 2.7 percent). Still, the nation, the state, the region and five of the six South Central counties experienced higher unemployment rates in October 2002 than the average of October unemployment rates from 1990 to 2001. (See graph to right.)

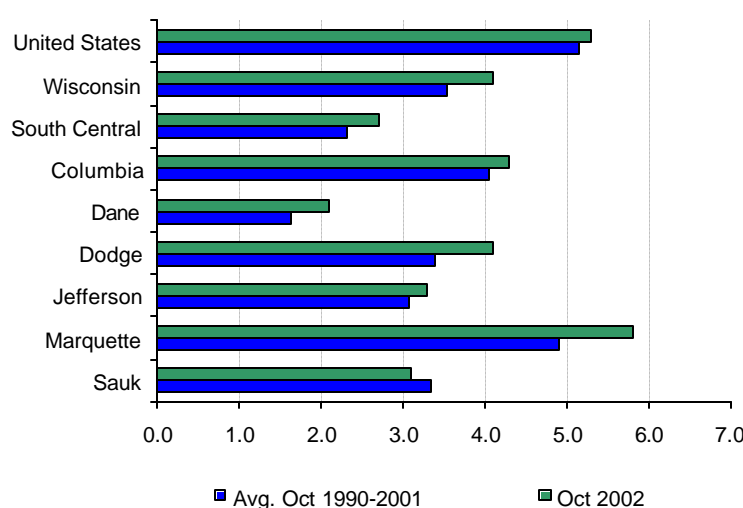
Averaging the September-to-October from 1991 to 2001, Dane and Jefferson counties saw larger-than-average decreases in unemployment. (See graph on page 2.) In fact, these were the only two counties in the region to join the 40 Wisconsin counties seeing unemployment rate declines in September.

Dane County, experienced an unusually large dip in the services sector and the unusually strong gain in government employment (particularly federal government employment). Part of this is probably attributable to the newly created Transportation

Security Administration taking over security work previously done by private contractors at Truax Field, the Dane County Regional Airport. Far larger numbers of Dane County government job gains reported in October were in local government, and were probably delayed reports of school-related jobs resuming for the fall. With weak growth in transportation, communication and utilities jobs and retail jobs, Dane County appears to reflect national trends of struggling with overcapacity in the communications sector and weak consumer spending. Although construction employment has followed seasonal patterns, this year's figures have generally been below last year's, except September.

Jefferson County has seen three consecutive months of larger-than-average job losses in manufacturing. This is consistent with national reports of weak demand for manufactured goods. Dodge County's decline in nondurable manufacturing employment was sharp (8.8 percent below the September figure), but not unprecedented. Nondurable

Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

October 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
October 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	3,054,200	446,100	280,200	28,600	48,500	43,700	7,500	37,600
Employed	2,928,200	433,900	274,200	27,400	46,500	42,200	7,100	36,400
Unemployed	126,000	12,200	5,900	1,220	1,980	1,450	430	1,180
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	2.7	2.1	4.3	4.1	3.3	5.8	3.1
Change From September 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	4,900	-2,300	700	-530	-650	0	-120	-1,750
Employed	9,700	-2,000	1,060	-570	-670	70	-150	-1,750
Unemployed	-4,700	-340	-360	40	10	-70	30	10
Unemployment Rate (%)	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.5	0.1
Change From October 2001								
Civilian Labor Force*	61,200	8,500	6,000	1,020	-810	620	250	1,420
Employed	57,400	8,700	5,300	900	280	690	230	1,280
Unemployed	3,800	-210	690	120	-1,100	-70	20	130
Unemployment Rate (%)	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.3	-2.1	-0.2	0.0	0.2

* Includes participants residing in area. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers, results are rounded

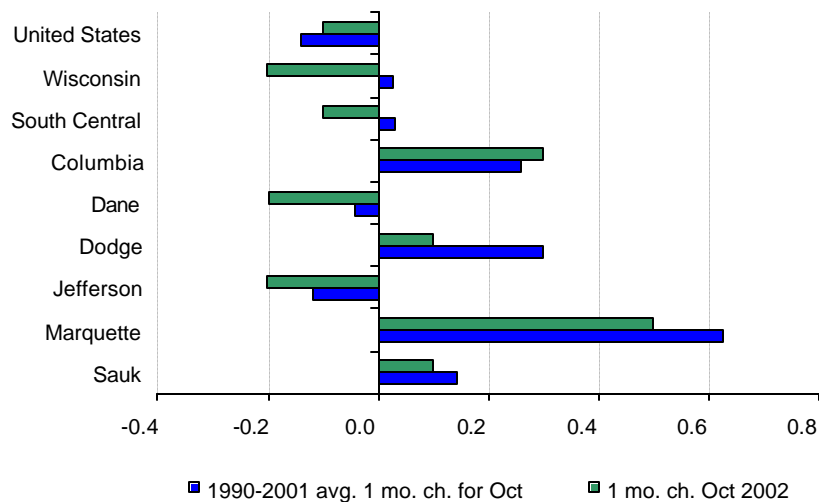
manufacturing can include food processing that ends when the harvest is finished, so this could reflect the season wrapping up sooner.

After stronger-than-average job gains in August and faster-than-average job loss in September, Jefferson County's services sector seems to be returning to seasonal norms in October. The services sector in Sauk County, on the other hand remained remarkably close to seasonal norms, dipping slightly below in June and October. Sauk's

retail has also been strikingly close to seasonal averages, but its one-month job loss in manufacturing is greater than any such loss in data dating to 1994.

Columbia County's October loss of (primarily nondurable) manufacturing jobs reflects a smaller reduction than usual following a summer increase that was also smaller than usual. Productivity gains and uncertainty about coming months could make manufacturers less eager to add employees during the peak seasons.

Unemployment rate changes - not seasonally adjusted



Payroll employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

October 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
October 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	2,868,300	436,800	299,800	21,900	35,500	37,800	4,000	37,800
Construction & Mining	134,000	20,500	13,200	1,130	2,400	1,230	320	2,200
Manufacturing	570,600	68,000	30,400	5,800	12,000	11,300	1,240	7,300
Transport & Public Util.	133,000	15,400	10,600	670	1,400	1,530	80	1,090
Wholesale Trade	136,500	17,200	12,100	750	1,050	1,340	100	1,820
Retail Trade	511,300	76,900	51,100	4,200	5,100	7,500	700	8,200
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	153,800	27,400	24,100	420	800	860	120	1,170
Services	804,000	117,100	84,100	4,900	7,300	9,800	670	10,400
Government	425,000	94,200	74,200	4,000	5,500	4,200	770	5,600
Change From September 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	14,100	-2,100	1,310	-680	-650	10	10	-2,100
Construction & Mining	-1,590	-410	-270	20	-20	-10	0	-130
Manufacturing	-2,200	-1,240	-40	-200	-540	-140	30	-350
Transport & Public Util.	780	240	130	-30	40	70	0	30
Wholesale Trade	-120	-30	30	-20	-20	0	-10	-10
Retail Trade	3,000	-390	120	-260	-20	70	-10	-280
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	120	70	90	-10	-10	0	10	0
Services	-4,000	-2,400	-340	-300	-120	-150	-10	-1,450
Government	18,100	2,100	1,600	120	40	160	20	140
Change From October 2001								
Total jobs, all industries**	4,800	8,600	7,200	990	-750	-270	10	1,450
Construction & Mining	1,070	-1,060	-1,080	60	80	-20	-60	-50
Manufacturing	-43,200	-3,000	-850	250	-1,440	-1,110	40	110
Transport & Public Util.	-5,100	70	230	-90	80	-140	-10	0
Wholesale Trade	-1,480	-540	-500	-30	-30	-60	10	70
Retail Trade	4,600	1,080	130	90	150	330	-30	410
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	6,100	2,300	2,300	-50	-20	40	10	50
Services	27,900	8,300	6,600	500	130	470	40	590
Government	15,000	1,440	370	270	290	230	10	270

**Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers, results rounded.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi.

Direct questions and comments to: Dan Barroilhet, Labor Market Economist
Dane County Job Center, 1819 Aberg Avenue, Suite C, Madison, WI 53704
Telephone: (608) 242-4885; Email: dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us